

Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 1-8, 11-12, 15-21, and 24 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 7-8, 11-12, 15-16, 20-21, and 24; and has cancelled claims 9-10, 13-14, 22-23, and 25-26. No claims have been added. Of the pending claims, claims 1 and 15 are the only independent claims.

Facsimile Communication

In the Office Action mailed on January 22, 2004, the Examiner indicated that there was some confusion regarding a facsimile communication from the Applicant received on November 24, 2003 by the U.S. Patent Office. This communication was in regards to an attempt to change the customer number for this application to 22045. Please disregard this communication if it is in anyway confusing, incomplete, or improper.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,673,089 issued to Yuen et al. ("Yuen"). The Applicant believes that the claimed invention is patentable over Yuen and has amended independent claims 1 and 15 to more clearly define thereover.

1. The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 15 is a system and an associated method for automatically scanning channels of a television (TV) operable for displaying a plurality of channels of a channel lineup one at a time.

As set forth in amended independent claim 1, the system includes an input device operable for being controlled respectively by viewers to enable the viewers to control the TV to change the channels being displayed by the TV. The input device is operable to enable each viewer to associate preference settings of the viewer with the input device. The preference settings for each viewer include channel display time period, channel scanning order, and program category filter preference settings. The input device in response to being controlled by a first one of the viewers is operable with the TV to automatically change the channels being displayed by the TV without any further viewer control of the input device such that each channel in the channel lineup having content satisfying the first viewer's program category filter preference setting is automatically displayed, in accordance with the first viewer's channel scanning order preference setting, one at a time by the TV for the duration of the first viewer's channel display time period.

2. Yuen

The Examiner posited that Yuen discloses a remote control which enables a user to surf through a set of predetermined television channels in a cyclic manner (citing col. 6, lines 39-55). The Examiner further posited that Yuen discloses theme channels and set time periods configured by the user which meet the preference setting set forth in the Applicant's claim 13.

3. The Claimed Invention Compared to Yuen

The claimed invention generally differs from Yuen in that in the claimed invention the input device automatically changes the channels in response to being controlled by a viewer in accordance with that viewer's preference settings. That is, in the claimed invention each viewer has preference settings associated with the input device and these preference settings for each viewer include channel display time period, channel scanning order, and program category filter preference settings. For each viewer, the input device automatically changes the channels in accordance with that viewer's preference settings.

In contrast, Yuen teaches that sets of channels may be associated with respective buttons of a remote control. In response to a viewer pressing one of the buttons, the remote control scans the channels associated with the pressed button. As such, Yuen does not teach or suggest the remote control, in response to being controlled by a particular viewer, automatically changing the channels such that each channel in a channel lineup of the television which has content satisfying the particular viewer's program category filter preference setting is automatically displayed, in accordance with the particular viewer's channel scanning order preference setting, one at a time by the television for the duration of the particular viewer's channel display time period as claimed.

Accordingly, the Applicant believes that amended independent claims 1 and 15 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Yuen. Claims 2-8, 11-12, 16-21, and 24 depend from one of amended independent claims 1 and 15 and include the limitations therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-8, 11-12, 15-21, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 1-8, 11-12, 15-21, and 24, as amended, meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of January 22, 2004

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If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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